

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2867

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OREP, SP (KENNEDY, EDWARD)

SUBJ: POSSIBLE VISIT BY SENATOR KENNEDY TO MADRID

REF: MADRID 200979

1. I WELCOME SENATOR KENNEDY'S VISIT. AS HIS VISIT WILL COINCIDE WITH THE EXPIRATION DATE FOR THE STILL-PENDING SPANISH BASE AGREEMENT, HE SHOULD KNOW THAT THE VISIT WILL INEVITABLY BE LINKED TO THE BASE ISSUE REGARDLESS OF OUR JOINT EFFORTS TO DISCOURAGE SUCH SPECULATION.

2. HIS VISIT WILL LIKELY BE GIVEN CONSIDERABLE SYMBOLIC IMPORTANCE HERE. THE SPANISH PRESS, RATHER FREE IN THESE MATTERS, WILL BE QUICK TO NOTE WHO HE SEES AND WHO HE DOES NOT SEE, EVEN TO SUCH NICETIES AS THE ORDER OF HIS ACTIVITIES. I RECOMMEND, AS THE FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS, CALLS ON JUAN CARLOS AND ARIAS. THE PRIME MINISTER, EVEN THOUGH ALL HAS NOT GONE AS HE WISHED, HAS BEEN A FORCE FOR EVOLUTIONARY CHANGE, AND SENATOR KENNEDY'S SPENDING SOME TIME WITH HIM WOULD HAVE SYMBOLIC VALUE. ADDITIONALLY, A CALL ON FONMIN CORTINA MIGHT BE USEFUL BUT I WOULD PREFER TO HOLD THAT RECOMMENDATION AGAINST THE POSSIBILITY THAT WE WILL STILL BE EMBROILED IN THE BASE NEGOTIATIONS.

3. THE SECOND CATEGORY, PERHAPS BEST HANDLED THROUGH A STAG LUNCHEON FOR 15 TO 20 AT THE RESIDENCE, WOULD BE A SELECT GROUP OF PARLIAMENTARY (CORTES) LEADERS, AGAIN SHOWING

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THE INTEREST WE ATTACH TO THE EVOLUTIONARY DEVELOPMENT

OF SPAIN'S PARLIAMENTARY SYSTEM. SOME POLITICAL ASSOCIATION LEADERS PLUS A FEW MEMBERS OF THE CORTES WHO ARE CRITICAL OF THE REGIME WOULD BE INCLUDED IN THIS LUNCHEON, AND PERHAPS A FIGURE OR TWO FROM THE MEDIA WORLD.

4. THE THIRD CATEGORY WOULD BE THE NON-COMMUNIST OPPOSITION THAT SENATOR KENNEDY WANTS TO SEE, E.G., THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS, THE PSOE, AND THE FEDISA, WHICH IS OF THE ESTABLISHMENT BUT DOES NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE POLITICAL ASSOCIATIONS PROCESS. AS THE DEPT KNOWS, I SEE OPPOSITION LEADERS OF DEMOCRATIC PERSUASION IN THE RESIDENCE. WE COULD ARRANGE MEETINGS AT THE RESIDENCE, IF THE SENATOR WISHES, WITH SOME OF THESE GROUPS.

5. NEEDLESS TO SAY, I WOULD RECOMMEND NO CONTACT WITH "JUNTA DEMOCRATICA" MEMBERS OR LEADERS.

6. AS FAR AS PRESS IS CONCERNED, WE CAN ARRANGE ANYTHING THE SENATOR DESIRES, PERHAPS AT THE END OF HIS VISIT AND AT HIS HOTEL.

7. IF THE SENATOR AGREES WITH THE CONCEPTS SET FORTH HERE, WE CAN PROCEED TO REFINE A DRAFT SCHEDULE AND SEND IT TO YOU.
STABLER

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